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American Research Center In Egypt, Inc.

NEWSLETTER



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AMERICAN RESEARCH CENTER IN EGYPT, INC.

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THE ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Center have long since received the announcement of the Annual Meeting to be held in Baltimore on Saturday, November 19, 1966. It is hoped that as many as possible will arrange to be present.

The Walters Art Gallery at Center and Clark Streets, which has generously offered to act as host to the Members of the Center, will open its doors at nine in the morning to give visitors a chance to see the Egyptian and Islamic collections before the sessions of papers open at ten o'clock. The morning will be devoted to the reading of papers in various fields of Egyptian studies. In the afternoon there will be a general session, which will include illustrated reports by Professor Kurt Weitzmann and Professor George Forsyth of the Sinai expedition, by Professor Donald Hanson, Field Director in Charge of the Mendes excavation, by Mr. Nicholas Millet, who has directed the dig at Gebel Adda, and by Dr. James Harris, who has worked on the skeletal material from that site in connection with a study of Nubian craniofacial variation covering the period from 200 A.D. to the present.

Between the two sessions, the Walters Gallery has kindly invited members to a buffet luncheon in the Museum.

SOCIAL LIFE IN CAIRO

By Susan Jane Staffa

Miss Staffa who holds a fellowship from the Center for a study of the quarter system as affecting the social life of Cairo, here reports on her first half-year's work.

At my arrival in Egypt my formal and informal goals included first, the collection of data on the social life of Cairo 1750-1850, the tracing of patterns of urban social interaction of the present day which show continuity with the past, and the establishment of contacts which would permit me to return in a year or two to concentrate on the contemporary scene.

With regard to my historical research, I am now working on the copious library materials here, principally the Description de l'Egypte, el Jabarty, and 'Ali Pasha Mubarak's Taufikiyyah, as well as various journal materials and other secondary sources. So much is available in the travel literature and Arabic chronicles that I feel I must analyze this before going into more detailed archives. Incidentally, I have "captured" the Bulak edition of el-Jabarty, as

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well as the Taufikiyyah from a shop in the Khan el-Khalili for a much better price than elsewhere. This indeed was an interesting experience, to purchase books next to the very buildings described in their pages and then to have tea around the corner in a coffee house which was in the same family from the days of Malik es-Saleh.

Which brings us to my second objective, the continuity of social patterns in the old quarters of the city. In view of obtaining this kind of information, I am making frequent visits (once or twice a week) to the area of al-Musky and Saiyidna Husayn, comparing the present location of crafts and shops with those found in the Description and the remarks of 'Ali Mubarak. Generally speaking, the merchants of this area are most helpful in providing information of this sort and, from the point of view of cooperation, it is not considered unusual for a foreigner to be interested in such things. I am also trying to collect family histories from some of these people to provide a microcosmic picture of the mechanisms of social interaction between families, guilds, and religious orders, for instance. Many general statements are made about these things in the chronicles but little specific information is given that is not fragmentary.

The key to much of my progress this year falls into the category of my third objective. Here I have been unbelievably fortunate in becoming the close friend of an Egyptian girl of my own age who shares many of my interests and has opened many doors which would have otherwise remained closed. She was invaluable in extricating my trunk from customs, introducing me to individuals who could offer advice on how to find certain kinds of information, translating for me, and helping me to interview, when my colloquial Arabic and knowhow fell short. I am very glad that I will have a chance to help her in America next fall. We will be sharing an apartment at Indiana University, as she has won a fellowship in Comparative Literature there for 1966-67. It is through here also that I have really seen something of village life, as we have spent some days at her family's farm not far from Cairo. Here is a possibility for a contemporary study in the future. I should not fail to mention also that any improvement in my spoken Arabic will be due to the efforts of this girl.

With reference now to my dissertation, it will have two major foci. Theoretically it will deal with the application of socio-anthropological concepts to history, and the value of different kinds of historical data to anthropological research. Substantively I hope to be able to say something interesting about the mechanisms which defined and integrated the communities (quarters) which made up the traditional urban center. At the present time I am collecting data on residence patterns, economic and social ties, ideological affiliations, and even the expression of attitudes in urban folklore. When I leave here in September I hope to have enough data to fit into the generalized framework which I envisioned in the beginning. Indiana University has awarded me a fellowship to complete my dissertation during the next year. I deliberately did not wish to set out with a preconceived idea of what I was going to be able to get, as then I might have overlooked something else that was important.

While approximately half of my stay here has been completed, naturally I wish that I could say that half of my work has been finished as well, but that is something that will go on for some time to come, as new doors are opened and new questions arise. Despite the many frustrations involved in doing work here, and the annoyances one feels at having to get used to a slower pace of life, I can truthfully say that I really enjoy living in Egypt, whether walking around the old city, investigating the ancient houses and museums of Cairo, or spending many pleasant hours in the homes of the modern Egyptians.

GEBEL ADDA: THE FINAL SEASON

By Nicholas B. Millet

The following is a report of work done during the first half of the final season of the Center's excavation at Gebel Adda. The report for the second half of the season will appear in a future number of the Newsletter.

Mr. Millet, director of the project since its inception in 1962, has returned to the United States and is attending Yale University.

1. The Expedition left the High Dam area above Aswan the afternoon of Wednesday, 22nd December, 1965 and arrived at Abu Simbel the evening of the 23rd. The site was reached on the following morning at 9:00 and work began immediately thereafter. The staff was composed of nine persons: N.B. Millet, Director; K.R. Weeks, Deputy Director and Physical Anthropologist; R.W. Huber and N.D. MacKenzie, Field Supervisors; Wojciech Kolontaj, Architect; F. Haller, Photographer; S.L. Howe, Artist; (Mrs.) S. E. Millet, recorder, and Ahmed el-Nashaty, Representative of the U.A.R. Antiquities Department. The labour force comprised sixty-four men and boys of the town of Quft, Qena Governorate, under Ra'is Abbady Ahmen Hamid of that place.
2. The work schedule of the labour force normally involves seven work hours a day (the legal limit), from 6:00 to 9:30 a.m. and from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday is a free day for the workers. In addition two days' holiday was granted for the Feast terminating the fasting month of Ramadan, as is customary. The end of February will see a total of fifty-five work days spent, approximately mid-season. It is expected to continue work in the field until the fifteenth of April, 1966.
3. In general the tasks confronting the Expedition this season may be said to be three in number: (1) the final excavation of the town-site (Citadel) begun last year; (2) the excavation of a small cemetery believed to be very late Christian (1100-1400?) in order to fill this one remaining gap in the collection of skeletal remains from the Adda cemeteries; (3) the completion of the essential measurements of the skeletal material, consisting so far of the remains of approximately four thousand individuals, ranging in date from 200 A.D. to 1800 A.D. in an apparently unbroken series, representing the largest collection of human skeletal material ever excavated at a single site. Work begun on the first two of the tasks mentioned as soon as camp was set up, and the measuring of the skeletal material shortly thereafter. The various features of the Citadel which have been excavated to date will be described in separate paragraphs below, and brief expositions on the historical significance and background will be interpolated under the name of Excursuses.
4. The South Gate Area. Excavation of the South Gate of the Ottoman fortification wall was begun under the supervision of Mr. Neil MacKenzie. At this point on the south face of the Citadel surface indications led the excavators to suspect the existence of older lines of fortification within the late Turkish walls, specifically of the Meroitic and Christian periods. The Turkish gate area (together with "Gate Street" leading to it) appeared the best point of attack, inasmuch as it was desirable to find the south gates of the earlier lines if such existed. Excavation of a series of five meter squares has revealed to date the south face and top of a complex mud-brick fortification wall of considerable massiveness (ca. 5 m. thick) dating to the late Meroitic Period (200 A.D.-350 A.D.). Heavy bastions projecting from the wall were dad in rough wetlaid stone masonry for

added strength. The wall is preserved in places to a height of three meters but is believed to have been considerably higher at some points.

Excursus A: This wall represents the earliest building so far discovered on the Citadel. It is provisionally believed from the scanty archaeological and written evidence (type of script) that this first fortification of the hill of Adda was carried out late in the Second Century or early in the Third to control the desert route which here connects the Nile Valley with the Eastern Desert caravan roads, in an attempt to restrain the predatory attacks of the Blemmyes and other nomads of the desert and to control any trade moving along these routes.

This Late Meroitic wall appears to have been in use on the south side of the town through X-group times and into the Late Christian Period (1100-1500 A.D.). In Christian times (perhaps 12th Century) the wall was partially resheathed in rough stonework to support the ancient mud-brick fabric. Additions in stone were built at various points, showing that the Late Christian rulers felt a need to maintain Adda in a defensible condition. On the rubbish which eventually accumulated outside this rebuilt wall a number of Late Christian houses were built, which in Turkish times were incorporated into a new set of fortifications superceding the earlier ones. As the Christian stonework masking the original Meroitic wall is still in the process of being dismantled, the original gate has not yet been located. The stratigraphy of the dumped rubbish and occupational debris over and between these walls is being studied by Mr. MacKenzie in order to learn as much as possible about the occupational sequence. It is hoped that location of the original Meroitic gate will give further clues to the city plan of Adda during that period and enable the excavators to locate other major buildings.

5. The Late Christian Palace Area. Immediately adjacent to this area, but at a much higher level, the remains of a large staircase gave a clue to the existence of an important Late Christian building. Excavation at this point, carried out by Mr. R. Huber, has revealed an extensive complex of mud-brick buildings joined together, apparently representing the residence of an important personage. The building fronts on Gate Street, apparently already at this period the main north-south thoroughfare of the town. An elaborate plastered and red-painted staircase on this side leads to the second or residential storey; as with most houses of this period at Adda, the ground floor consisted only of blind rooms used as storerooms in case of siege and to cool the rooms above, as is still done in parts of the Middle East. The second storey had fallen almost completely and Turkish houses had been built on the ruins. Considerable quantities of fine painted Late Christian pottery were recovered from the lower rooms, and imported fragments of Egyptian glazed ware and inscribed fragments help to date the main period of occupancy of the Palace (so-called as being apparently the largest civil building of that level) to the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries. A study of the stratigraphy outside the house (made by Mr. Huber) seems to indicate that the upper part of the Citadel was continuously occupied from the time of the building of the Palace, perhaps in the thirteenth century, until the final abandonment of Adda at the end of the seventeen hundreds.

Excursus B: Due to the destruction of the actual residential rooms, the Palace was disappointingly poor in finds. Two painted pottery models of castles adorned with emblems drawn from Mamluk heraldry attest

to relations with Egypt, and an ostrakon written in Old Nubia mentioning a priest known from another dated document helped fix the period of the building. Still, there can hardly be any doubt that the building was one of several residences of the viceroys of Nubia in the thirteenth century, and most likely remained in use during the fourteenth as one of many strategic residences of the kings of Dotauwo, the name given to the latest surviving Christian Nubian kingdom. It is hoped that excavation now being carried on in the open area surrounding the Palace may result in further information. It is uncertain as yet, for example, what conclusions may be drawn from the apparent fact of the continuation in use of the Palace during the fifteenth century.

6. Church 4: The Crypts. The Late Christian Church standing at the edge of the open plaza at the North end of Gate Street was excavated in part during an earlier season (1963-64) and only the final plan and clearing of the crypts underneath remained to be done. This work was begun soon after the Expedition's arrival by Mr. Weeks, with the assistance of the most expert of the labour force, Ahmed Ali Faiyiq of Quft, as it was expected that important burials might be found in the main crypts. Such proved in fact to be the case. In the crypt beneath the south aisle of the church were found a burial wrapped in a quilt and another of slightly earlier date encased in a sycamore-wood coffin (burials B and C). In the western portion of the nave-crypts was another burial in a quilt (burial D). A much disturbed burial (A) was found west of (B). The crypt beneath the sanctuary proved to have been completely cleaned out in medieval times. In the rubbish filling the crypts were numerous fragments of frescoed plaster from the original decoration of the church, which had apparently been hacked from the walls at a point in time between burials (C the earlier) and (B). The church was completely excavated and partially dismantled for further architectural and historical study, with the interesting result that fragments of Arabic manuscript of the Turkish period built into the brickwork of the piers to the north of the nave show that the building's upper walls as they stand date from the time that the building was converted into a mosque (eighteenth century), after a period of use in earlier Turkish times as a house inhabited by a maker of amulets and village magician.

Excursus C: The crypt burials, of the late thirteenth century, although yielding beautiful and important finds in the form of imported Mamluk damask, silk, and brocade costumes and winding sheets, are of uncertain historical significance. B. and C. the two finest and probably the two earliest, were each provided with a lengthy prayer written on the shroud over the face and chest in the Old Nubian language, calling upon the Virgin and the saints to intercede for the deceased, and ending in each case with a line in Greek: "O Lord Jesus Christ, give rest to thy servant, So-and-so. The two personal names thus preserved, Gapoiapa (burial C) and Komar (burial B), are neither of them followed by titles. The costumes found are those of civil rather than religious dignitaries, and both men were in their thirties. The name of Gapoiapa is not known historically, but that of Komar recalls the viceroy of Lower Nubia called Qumar el-Dawla by the Arabic chroniclers, who fought the invading Mamluk armies in 1275, when the amir el-Afram captured Adda, and seized the Nubian royal family which was in the city at the time. The date of the burials seems to fit (second half of the thirteenth century), and study of the official Arabic stamps on the imported fabrics may enable us to give a more exact attribution.

7. Church 7 (?) Excavation to the east of Gate Street by Mr. Huber has recently (22nd February) revealed mud-brick walls painted with frescoes, which are believed at the time of reporting to be remains of another Late Christian church, most likely, from its situation, to date from the time of the kingdom of Dotauwo (14th-15th centuries) rather than from the earlier Eparchal Period (time of the viceroys of Lower Nubia ruling on behalf of the kings of Nubia at Dongola). Excavation proceeds in this area.

8. The Meroitic temple. Four weeks of work in the north-east sector of the site the Meroitic Acropolis, as it has been called in earlier reports--have laid bare the badly destroyed ruins of the sandstone temple of the Late Meroitic Period (200-350 A.D.), which was perhaps the most striking building at Adda in Meroitic times. Due to extensive destruction during the X-group (Nobadic Period, 350-550 A.D.), the building of a church over the ruins in late Middle Christian times, and the fall of the north wall of the Acropolis due to earthquake or enemy action in the 12th or 13th century, the back of the temple area was much destroyed, only traces being left of the sanctuary and side-rooms. Underneath the later pavements, however, sufficient was found of the rough stone foundations to enable the excavators to reconstruct much of the temple plan. A deep pit excavated beneath the floors of the ambulatory yielded numerous fragments of a painted sandstone stand for the sacred boat, numerous fragments of temple equipment, including a carved wooden sceptre head, scraps of Meroitic manuscripts on papyrus and parchment, and various other objects reflecting the relative richness of the temple furniture in the third century.

Excursus D: It is still uncertain to what god or gods the Adda temple was dedicated. The carved sceptre mentioned above, which was probably used in offering ceremonies, bears representations of Amun (probably Amun of Napata), Mut Horus and Hathor, and rock inscriptions in the Adda vicinity indicate that Horus (Are) was revered in the area.

Several fragments of sculpture and sculptural decoration are found rebuilt into later walls in the temple area, including a sandstone head from a nearly life-size statue of a Meroitic king of the early fourth century, or possibly late third, the only piece of free-standing Meroitic royal sculpture found in Lower Nubia to date. The workmanship is crude to a degree. A large but completely erased Meroitic stela with over 30 lines of text was found reused in the steps of the Christian church, an example of the kind of disappointment archaeologists must sometimes suffer. A large fragment of a similar historical or dedicatory inscription has turned up more recently; the text is abstruse and it is doubtful whether any of the meaning can be abstracted from it, considering the present state of our knowledge of the Meroitic language. In any case it adds several new words to the known Meroitic vocabulary, a fact in itself of value.

9. The Meroitic Fortifications and Houses in the Temple Area. Underneath the temple foundations Mr. Weeks (in charge of all of this area) laid bare the northeastern corner and much of the east side of the same older Late Meroitic mud-brick fortifications already described as appearing in the South Gate Area (paragraph 4 above). From this construction, the presence of Meroitic buildings outside of it, and the later Acropolis walls built over both, the sequence of building during Late Meroitic times has been somewhat clarified.

Excurus E: The archaeological sequence would seem to be as follows. The first construction on the site in Late Meroitic times was the massive mud-brick defense wall, five meters thick, with its tone-faced bastions. The scanty evidence available suggests a date towards the end of the second century or the beginning of the third. Subsequently further massive stone walls of rough wet-laid masonry were built outside it in support of the older defense, at least at certain points. A third stage of building is represented by a series of vaulted rooms built in the space between the mud walls and the supporting stone walls. Perhaps in the second half of the third century, the fourth building phase was begun, which resulted in the construction of the well-made ashlar masonry Acropolis with its crowning temples, which lay over and encapsulated all the older constructions in this particular area. Still later, at the time of the take-over of the Adda Citadel by the X-group tribes, rebellious subjects of the Meroite rulers and the ancestors of the present-day Nubians (ca. 350 A.D.?) the temple was plundered and the area used by the tribesmen for living, the older Meroitic rooms then underground being cleared out and used by squatters, who also dumped refuse in the temple area. The sequence of events is then uncertain until late Middle Christian times, when the area was deliberately cleared by the builders of Church #5 (the church in the temple in preparation for their pious work).

10. The Late Christian tombs in Cemetery Two. Mr. Weeks also oversaw the clearing of some hundred mud-brick mastaba tombs in Cemetery Two and the complete excavation of a sample of a third of the number in order to record the burial customs of the period and collect an adequate skeletal sample to complete the Adda series. In contrast to earlier custom in Christian Nubia, it was not unknown in Late Christian times to include an occasional object in the burial with the body. This enabled the excavators to date the tombs with somewhat greater precision than is customary with Christian tombs in Nubia. The well-defined group of tombs described here seems to date from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

11. The Anthropometric Study. Work is well advanced on the measurement and study of the four thousand individuals making up the Adda series. Ample samplings are now available from the following periods: Late Meroitic, Early X-group, Late X-group, Transitional X-group--Christian, Early Christian, Middle Christian, Late Christian, Fatimid Muslim colony (sample very small), and Turkish. In addition there are a number of desert nomad individuals, probably Bisharin, outside the main time range, and not part of the Adda population properly so-called. The series, as stated previously, is unique in size and range. A palaeopathological study is also being carried out pari passu with the anthropometry, as well as a dental study. This part of the Gebel Adda project is being carried out by Mr. Weeks with the assistant of Mrs. Millet.

INITIATION INTO ARCHAEOLOGY

By Neil MacKenzie

Mr. MacKenzie, a student who went to Egypt to assist in the excavation at Fustat, is now working for his doctor's degree at the University of Michigan.

On arrival in Cairo to work at Fustat in December 1964, I hardly expected to spend eighteen months on six consecutive archaeological excavations; nor did I expect to encounter such a variety of sites, techniques, and people.

For the first month, I was in Aswan, trying to arrange the transportation of the Fostat (formerly the houseboat of the University of Chicago) to Cairo for the Fustat expedition. After returning to Cairo in February, I spent the next four months at Fustat sorting and classifying ceramics for Dr. George Scanlon. Fustat, at first impression, hardly reflected its original grandeur. Seven centuries of dumping had all but obliterated its remnants, until recent excavations unearthed a canalization and sewerage system probably unsurpassed in the medieval world. Samples of imported ceramics supplied us with new data on commercial relations. Although the constant dumping had disturbed much of the stratification, we were fortunate in finding an untouched cistern with evidence - including a lustre glass goblet - indicating an Abassid date for our earliest foundations.

In mid-June the 1965 campaign at Fustat was complete and, through the kindness of Professor Michalowski of the University of Warsaw, I assumed work as a field supervisor for the Polish Archaeological Center in Cairo. Under the direction of Dr. Jagoda Lipinska, we excavated for three weeks at the nearly completed site of Tell-Athrib in Benha, about thirty kilometres north of Cairo. This site, begun in 1957, is certainly one of the more complicated in Egypt, with about eight construction levels from the twenty-sixth dynasty through the Islamic period. Although the earlier foundations are partially covered by debris from previous seasons, one can still see the remnants of a Ptolemaic house with columns, Roman canals and baths, and later Christian and Islamic structures.

Having finished at Benha in mid-July, I proceeded to Kom al-Dikka in Alexandria, where I remained until mid-September. This site was under the direction of Dr. Wlajslaw Kubiak, who was assistant director at Fustat. After six years of excavation, Kom al-Dikka has become the city's major archaeological site. Situated in the heart of Alexandria, the Kom to date only partially excavated, has revealed a theatre and a bath (both of Roman and Byzantine date) as well as three periods of Islamic tombs. Although the Polish mission operates this site the year round, a relatively small work force and up to seven meters of fill render the complete excavation of the area an arduous task. Skeletal material, pottery, and types of mortar are being carefully studied.

In mid-October I joined the University of Chicago expedition to Kasr al-Wizz in Nubia. This was directed by Dr. Scanlon, with several of the Fustat staff participating. Excavation lasted six weeks, after which I joined the Gebel Adda expedition under Mr. Nicholas Millet, where I continued until mid-April. Since both of these expeditions were discussed in recent newsletters, I will only mention them briefly.

The major removal of the temples of Abu Simbel has been completed and reconstruction begun. At both Kasr al-Wizz and Gebel Adda we were fortunate in the friendship and generosity of Mr. Hans von Hofe of Hochtief Co., chief of the Abu Simbel workshop. His assistance was invaluable. With the daily hydrofoils and airplanes bringing visitors to Abu Simbel, Gebel Adda was hardly isolated.

Kasr al-Hays al-Shargi is located in central Syria, about halfway between Palmyra and Deir ez-Zot. Here, between April 20 and June 20, the University of Michigan conducted its second season of excavation, directed by Professor Oleg Graber, in which I was fortunate enough to participate. Major digging was accomplished in both the large and small enclosures with a force of 150 workmen.

During this season we unearthed a vast quantity of stucco, which is now being studied in detail. We also did further work on a complex canalization system, and made extensive soundings in the small enclosure. Several reused capitals and blocks of Palmyrene origin were found, and further study will be made to determine what, if any, pre-Umayyad foundations exist. The small enclosure, with about five meters of debris, has disclosed three major occupation levels, ranging from the Umayyad period through the fifteenth century. Major industrial centers, as well as open paved areas and remnants of a huge portico, were exposed on the large enclosure. Although the area is far too great for total excavation it is hoped to finish all areas vital to understanding the function and the dating of the Kasr and to make all necessary sounding in other sections.

NEWS FROM CAIRO

The new Director of the Center in Cairo, John Dorman, has contributed the following notes for the Newsletter.

General

Following a Cabinet reshuffle on September 11 it was rumored that the Department of Antiquities might be transferred from the competence of the Ministry of Tourism, under Dr. Aziz Yassin, to the Ministry of Culture and National Guidance, under Sarwat Okasha, where it used to be. This rumor was confirmed by the press on September 20.

Archbishop Makarios presided over ceremonies held on September 18 at Saint Catherine's Monastery in Sinai to mark the 14th Century of the founding of the Monastery. Principal guest at the ceremonies was King Constantine of Greece, who presented the Monastery with a diamond inlaid cross and chain. Telegrams of congratulations were sent to Archbishop Porphyrios and Archimandrite Gregorios in the name of the President of the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc.

Mr. Mohamed Abdel Rahman has replaced Dr. Khashab, who has retired as Deputy Director of the Department of Antiquities. Mr. Rahman continues as Director of the Cairo Museum.

Dr. John Williams, formerly an ARCE fellow and more recently a member of the ARCE Restoration Committee, has assumed his duties as Director of the Center for Arabic Studies at the American University of Cairo.

Dr. Labib Habachi, having visited twenty four states and five European countries, has returned to Cairo after almost a year's absence, during which he received an honorary degree from New York University.

Miss Gail Woodward, secretary in the Cairo office of the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc. since January, 1964 will leave in October to marry Mr. Kevin Ryan of Richmond, Virginia. She will be replaced in the office by Mrs. Amira Khattab.

Archaeological

Mr. Jean Yoyotte of the Institute Francais d'Archeologie Orientale, has opened the excavating season this year with his work at Tanis in the Delta. Mr. Francois Daumas will later continue the excavations at Kellia in the Delta and may continue work at Dekhela, where, with the help of the Swiss Institute, he made some sondages and decoupages last spring. Mr. Daumas will also continue his work in Dendara Temple, where he is concentrating on inscriptions and bas-reliefs.

The society of Coptic Archaeology has applied for a concession to excavate at Abu Fana, located in Middle Egypt.

The German Archaeological Institute will continue its work at St. Menas, under the direction of Dr. Muller Weiner. Work at Deir El Bahari will be under the direction of Mr. Sedgast and Mr. Arnold.

An expedition from West Germany under the direction of Dr. Hornug has already started its study of the tombs in the Valley of the Kings.

Dr. Zabba, Director of the Czechoslovakian Institute, will work on the tombs of a Fifth Dynasty vizir at Abu Sir, near Saqqarah.

A Committee to X-ray the Pyramids is currently in Cairo on a preliminary survey mission. Representing the University of California, Berkeley, is Professor Louis Alvarez, Dr. Gerald Anderson and Dr. Ahmed Fakhry, currently on a year's leave of absence in Berkeley.

Miscellaneous

Disappointed that the traditional ceremony commemorating the ancient rite of sacrificing a young girl to the god of well-being HAPI (Nile) was to take place in Assiut this year, an international group of Nile worshippers last week decided to have their own ceremony in Cairo. Three Americans (a young student, a professor and an elderly lady correspondent), a Dutch botanist (studying the growth of potatoes in hot countries) and a Puerto Rican entomologist rented a rowboat for the occasion. The young student purchased the flowers for the ceremony, the men provided the doll made of sugar representing the luckless sacrificial maid of antiquity, while the journalist was cast in the role of priestess. As the rowboat approached the Kast El Nil Bridge, the sugar doll was tossed into the Nile, flowers were scattered over the water and the priestess intoned the appropriate liturgies to the bewilderment of a boatman and a florist who watched the proceedings from the shore. As the party returned from the ceremony, refreshed in spirit and confident of the bountiful year in store for them, a diligent policeman was seen to seize the miserable boatman who had witnessed the episode and lead him off for questioning.

IN MEMORIAM

Friends and colleagues of Alexandre Piankoff will learn with regret of his sudden death in Paris in August of this year. Mr. Piankoff, a long-time resident of Cairo and a former member of the staff of the French Institute in that city, served for a period as Egyptological consultant to the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc. His many publications include Les Chapelles de Tout-Ankh-Amon, Cairo, 1951-1952. (Memories de l'Institut francais... du Caire LXXII); The Shrines of Tut-Ankh-Amon, New York, 1955 (Bollingen Series XL,2), and a number of other works, chiefly concerned with Egyptian funerary religion (see Newsletter 51, March, 1964, pp. #16-17).

Other recent losses to Egyptology have been suffered through the death of Pierre Montet, the doyen of French Egyptologists, former director of the French Institute in Cairo and excavator of Tanis, and the premature death in a motor accident of Professor Hanns Stock, Director of the German Institute in Cairo.

NOTES

Attention of members of the Center should be drawn to an article by Paule Posener-Krieger in Nachrichten der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Gottingen, Philologisch-Historische Klasse, Jahrgang 1965, No. 10, pp. 177-183, entitled "Etat d'avancement de la publication des Archives D'Abu Sir." This gives in brief outline the history and something of the contents of the important papyri from the funerary temple of Neferirkare, now divided among the museums of London, Berlin, Paris and Cairo. Although these papyri represent only a small part of the vast records of the temple and offer many lacunae, they cover a considerable period of time and provide much new information concerning the services and economy of a funerary foundation of the Old Kingdom. The plate volume of the archives is scheduled to appear in the near future as a publication of the British Museum; the translation and commentary in French will follow shortly thereafter.

Professor Edwin Brown Allen, a charter member and former Trustee of the Center, who retired from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1964 as Professor of Mathematics and Head of the Graduate School Emeritus, writes as follows on his very active retirement:

"I had expected that retirement would bring some leisure time for things I had long wished to do, but what with my part-time teaching job at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a government research project, this does not seem to be the case. Among the things I have long wished to do has been the investigation of a number of manuscripts I have acquired over the years, mostly Arabic, but also a few in Coptic, Persian and Sanskrit. I started with a short Arabic manuscript the other day and had little difficulty with it at first, for it contained chapters from the Koran that I recognized. Soon, however, I ran into difficulty, for it continued in a vein that I shall have to translate laboriously in order to see what it is. I feel that it might be worth while to record these manuscripts, in case they contain something of general interest. I have also long been interested in the Mayan codices and monuments and have a good collection of material on these subjects. We hope, before embarking on the winter's work, to arrange for a trip to Mexico and Yucatan. While I anticipate that the government contract will require considerable time, I am always hopeful of finding the opportunity to follow some of the paths of knowledge that I have always wished to explore."

In Newsletter 53, December, 1964, announcement was made of the Wilbour Fellowship inaugurated by the Brooklyn Museum in memory of Charles Edwin Wilbour, whose library and antiquities formed the nucleus of the splendid Egyptian collection now housed in that institution. This fellowship is offered to scholars who are invited by the Museum to come to Brooklyn for study and publication of such Egyptological material in the Department of Ancient Art as lies within the special field of their competence. The following Fellows, a number of them members of the Center, have been appointed:

T. G. H. James, 1964-1965

Project: Corpus of Hieroglyphic Inscriptions in the Brooklyn Museum I: Through the End of Dynasty XVIII.

Elizabeth Riefstahl, 1966

Project: Ancient Egyptian Glass and Glazes in the Brooklyn Museum.
A Handbook.

Deborah Thompson, 1966-1967

Project: A Representative Selection of Coptic Textiles in The Brooklyn Museum.

Alexander Badawy, 1966

Project: Scale reproduction and publication of A Model of A Gateway of Seti I Intended for Heliopolis in The Brooklyn Museum.

George R. Hughes, 1966

Project: Checklist of Demotic Papyri and Ostraca in The Brooklyn Museum.

Serge Sauneron, 1966

Project: Magical Papyri in the Brooklyn Museum.

Elise J. Baungartel, 1966-1967

Project: Checklist and Handbook, Predynastic and Early Dynasty Objects in The Brooklyn Museum.

Klaus Parlasca, 1967

Project: Catalogue of Mummy Portraits, Masks and Shrouds in The Brooklyn Museum.

PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER

Bothmer, Bernard V. "History and chronology of Egyptian bronze figures of the Third Intermediate and Late Periods." in Year Book of The American Philosophical Society. 1965, pp.484-485.

In this article the author reports on an investigation for which he received a grant from the Society in 1962, to gather material for an introduction to a catalogue of Egyptian bronzes in the Brooklyn Museum. Under this grant, Dr. Bothmer studies the bronzes in Copenhagen, Paris and London, and in subsequent years continued his investigation in the museums of these and other European cities. He states that although a number of dated Bronze figures have been published individually, no historical and chronological study of the extant material has thus far been undertaken. In particular, the problem of the invention of hollow casting and its introduction into Egypt has hardly been touched. This technique first appears in the Third Intermediate Period (1000-700 B.C.), when some of the largest and most carefully wrought bronze figures produced in Egypt were made, among them the famous Queen Karomama of the Louvre. Dr. Bothmer's Egyptian Sculpture of the Late Period (Brooklyn, 1960) was a major contribution in a field hitherto almost untouched. His study of bronzes, another pioneer investigation, will be eagerly awaited.

Caminos, Ricardo. "Surveying Kumma" in Kush XIII, 1965, pp. 74-77.

We have here a preliminary report of the second season's work done by a joint expedition of the Egypt Exploration Society and Brown University at Semna-Kumma. The aim of the expedition has been to carry out an epigraphic and architectural survey of the two pharaonic temples surviving at that site. During the first season the temple erected in Dynasty XVIII in honor of Dedwen and Sesostris III was recorded, (see Newsletter 53, December 1964, p.19) The second season was concerned with the Temple of Khnum, chief deity of the First Cataract, which was built within the fortress on the east bank of the Nile at the upper end of the Second Cataract. The construction of this temple, probably begun by order of Tuthmosis II, was continued under Hatshepsut, Tuthmosis III and Amenophis II and probably thus covered a period of half a century or more. A detailed publication of both temples is projected.

Dunham, Dows. "A Collection of 'Pot-Marks' from Kush and Nubia". in Kush XIII, 1965, pp. 131-147.

As a by-product of his work on the publications of the Harvard-Boston Expedition, Mr. Dunham has collected a series of "pot-Marks" that seem to be of exceptional interest. While marks on pottery are current in Egypt and Nubia from the Predynastic Period onward, they usually are crudely scratched and bear little resemblance to recognized signs and symbols. They have been thought to be maker's

marks or signs of ownership, but for the most part they have defied classification. In the royal cemeteries of Kush, however, was found a series of carefully executed marks that seem to have special significance. They cannot be maker's marks, for they appear not only on pottery, but also on objects of bronze and silver; nor can they be marks of ownership, for they cover an extended period of time. Since the great majority of the marked objects were found in Meroitic royal burials or in those of high dignitaries, Mr. Dunham tentatively suggests that the marks were used by craftsmen in the service of the royal funerary endowments. He submits chronological lists of the marked objects, recording their provenance, and supplements them with careful drawings of the marks, in the hope that future scholars may perhaps solve the riddle of their meaning.

Jacquet-Gordon, Helen. "A Statue of a Son of Karoma." in The Brooklyn Museum Annual VI, 1964-1965, pp. 43-49.

Dr. Jacquet-Gordon examines here a small limestone block-statue in the Brooklyn Museum, originally of good workmanship but considerably damaged by time. Much of the inscription is unfortunately now illegible but enough remains to identify the statue as one dedicated by a son of Osorkon II (860-825 B.C.) and his wife Queen Karoma. In a carefully reasoned paper, the author decides that this son was probably Sheshonk, Crown Prince and High Priest of Ptah, who died before coming to the throne.

Nims, Charles F. Review of Scenes from Some Theban Tombs, by Nina de Garis Davies (Oxford, the Griffith Institute, 1963), in Journal of the American Oriental Society, 85, 1965, pp.414-415.

As Professor Nims says, the book he reviews here is probably the last of the volumes reproducing Egyptian tombs paintings that we shall ever have from Mr. and Mrs. Davies. This volume contains complete line drawings of Theban Tomb 38 (Djeserkaresonb) and Tomb 162 (Kanamun, now inaccessible) as well as some scenes from Tomb 66 (hepu) and Tomb 81 (Ineni, also inaccessible).. Professor Nims, who undoubtedly knows as much about the Theban necropolis as any other person now living, offers additional notes and some corrections for the drawings in the two tombs that are still accessible, and comments on the damage done by vandals in the tomb of Djeserkaresonb since the drawings were made. He concludes his review with a tribute to the work of Mr. and Mrs. Davies, whose devotion to the recording and exposition of scenes from the ancient tomb chapels was, as he says, almost religious. "There is yet much unrecorded, and many of the published records fall far short of the standards they established. May there be others who will recognize the importance of these primary documents of an ancient civilization and who will give the same care to the work still ahead."

Thomas, Elizabeth. The Royal Necropolis of Thebes, Princeton, N.J. 1966, XII, 298 pp. 22 figs. in text. Typescript photographically reproduced.

This, like many other scholarly works, has gone vainly in search of a publisher and has been privately printed in a very limited edition. It is based on many years of research in libraries and archives in the United States and Europe and on work in Egypt, one season of which was under the auspices of the American Research Center in Egypt, Inc. (see Newsletter 41, March 1961, pp.9-21) It is concerned with locating and identifying as many as possible of the tombs in the royal burial grounds of Thebes, those of Dynasty XI as well as those of the New Kingdom and later in the Valley of the Kings and the less studied Valley of the Queens. Supplemented as it is by topographical maps and plans, it is a much needed and useful compilation. The book may be obtained at cost from the author, Miss. Elizabeth Thomas, 308 Edgerstoune Road, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540, for \$14.00 including postage. It is hoped that it may some day see publication in more permanent form.

